

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a fixture having a seamless depression capable of holding a liquid, utilizing a thermoforming process, said method comprising the steps of:

a) placing a single sheet of heated, malleable, "solid surface" material in a vacuum mold;

A¹²
b) creating a vacuum within the vacuum mold in order to deform the material into a shape having a substantially seamless three-dimensional depression or projection capable of holding a liquid;

c) allowing the deformed material of step (b) to cool to a substantially rigid shape; and

d) removing the substantially rigidly shaped material from said vacuum mold.

2. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vacuum created in step (b) deforms the "solid surface" material to substantially its final shape.

3. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said deformed material comprises a flange portion, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

A¹² e) constraining the material about said flange portion prior to and during said vacuum creating step (b).

4. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said "solid surface" material comprises acrylic plastic.

5. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said "solid surface" material comprises acrylic plastic and approximately between 20 and 85 percent aluminum trihydrate filler by weight.

6. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1,
further comprising the step of:

e) bonding said rigidly shaped material of step
(d) to another component.

7. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 6,
wherein said another component comprises one of the group:
countertop, curb, other assembly feature.

8. (Original) An article fabricated in accordance with
claim 1.

9. (Original) The article fabricated in accordance with
claim 8, comprising a shower pan.

10. (Original) The article fabricated in accordance with
claim 8, comprising a bowl.

A¹²
11. (Original) The article fabricated in accordance with claim 8, comprising any article having a depression or projection in a "solid surface" material suitable for holding a liquid.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a fixture having a seamless depression capable of holding a liquid, utilizing a thermoforming process, said method comprising the steps of:

a) sizing a single sheet of "solid surface" material;

A12
b) heating and placing said sized, single sheet of "solid surface" material of step (a) in a vacuum mold;

c) creating a vacuum within the vacuum mold in order to deform the material into a shape having a substantially seamless three-dimensional depression or projection capable of holding a liquid;

d) allowing the deformed material of step (c) to cool to a substantially rigid shape; and

e) removing the substantially rigidly shaped material from said vacuum mold.

13. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the vacuum created in step (c) deforms the "solid surface" material to substantially its final shape.

14. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said deformed material comprises a flange portion, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

A12 f) constraining the material about said flange portion, prior to and after said vacuum creating step (c).

15. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said "solid surface" material comprises acrylic plastic.

16. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said "solid surface" material comprises acrylic plastic and approximately between 20 and 85 percent aluminum trihydrate filler by weight.

17. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 12,
further comprising the step of:

f) bonding said rigidly shaped material of step (e)
to another component.

18. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 17,
wherein said another component comprises one of the group:
countertop, curb, other assembly feature.

19. (Original) An article fabricated in accordance with
claim 12.

20. (Original) The article fabricated in accordance with
claim 19, comprising a shower pan.

21. (Original) The article fabricated in accordance with
claim 19, comprising a bowl.

22. (Original) The article fabricated in accordance with
claim 12, comprising any article having a depression or
projection in a "solid surface" material suitable for holding
a liquid
